

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of any canceled claims in one or more continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional applications. Claims 22-26 are pending in this application. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable for the following reasons.

The Double Patenting Rejection Should Be Withdrawn

Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly claiming the same invention as that of claims 14-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,762,195, and claims 1 and 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,458,810. (Office Action, page 2). Claims 20, 21 and 27 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,458,810 and claims 1-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,762,195. (Office Action, page 3).

Without acquiescing to the rejections of the Examiner, and solely in order to promote the progress of the present application, Applicants cancelled claims 1-21 and 27 without prejudice. As noted above, Applicants reserve the right to pursue subject matter within the cancelled claim in one or more continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part applications. Applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of the claims renders moots the pending rejections of the Examiner.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner not agree that the pending claims are allowable, then a further personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and to accelerate the allowance of the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,

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